

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-5, 8-24, 27-39 and 41-44 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 8-11, 20, 27-30, 39 and 41 are amended, and claims 6, 7, 25, 26 and 40 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Support for the claims can be found throughout the specification, including the original claims and the drawings. Withdrawal of the rejections in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

The subject matter of allowable claims 7, 26 and 40 (as well as intervening claims 6 and 25 as appropriate) has been incorporated into independent claims 1, 20 and 39, respectively. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1, 20 and 39, as well as claims 2-5, 8-19, 21-24, 27-38 and 41-44, which depend respectively therefrom, should be in condition for allowance. It is further submitted that, as all of pending claims 1-5, 8-24, 27-39 and 41-44 are in condition for allowance, the application should also be in condition for allowance.

II. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 3-6, 20-23 and 39 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over German Patent No. 36 04 673 (hereinafter "DE '673") in view of either U.S. Patent No. 6,135,142 to Yokota et al. (hereinafter "Yokota") or U.S. Patent No. 4,249,565 to Brust (hereinafter "Brust"). Claim 6 has been cancelled. The rejection, in so far as it applies to the remaining claims, is respectfully traversed.

As set forth above, the subject matter of allowable claims 7, 26 and 40 has been incorporated into independent claims 1, 20 and 39, respectively. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1, 20 and 39 are allowable over DE '673, Yokota and Brust, either alone or in combination, and thus the rejection of independent claims 1, 20 and 30 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over DE '673 and either Yokota or Brust should be withdrawn. Dependent claims 3-5 and 21-23 are allowable at least for the reasons set forth above with respect to independent claims 1 and 20, from which they respectively depend, as well as for their added features.

The Office Action rejects claims 2 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over DE '673 in view of either Yokota or Brust and further in view of either United Kingdom Patent No. 2 166 645 (hereinafter "UK '645") or European Patent No. 0 333 245 (hereinafter "EP '245"). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Dependent claims 2 and 24 are allowable over DE '673, Yokota and Brust, either alone or in combination, at least for the reasons set forth above with respect to independent claims 1 and 20, from which they respectively depend, as well as for their added features. Further, UK '645 and EP '245 are merely cited as allegedly teaching a case located at a lower portion of a rear panel, and thus fail to overcome the deficiencies of DE '673, Yokota and Brust as set forth above. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2 and 24 are allowable over the applied combinations, and thus the rejection should be withdrawn.

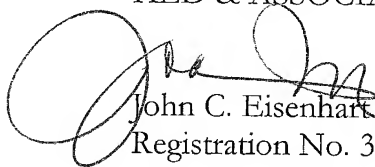
The Office Action rejects claims 6 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over DE '673 in view of either Yokota or Brust and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,003,536 to Polverari et al. (hereinafter "Polverari"). Claims 6 and 25 have been cancelled, and thus the rejection is moot.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned Joanna K. Mason, at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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